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Equal Rights

OFFICIAL WEEKLY OF
THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1924

Drawn by Nina E. Allender

THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY DEMANDS OF CONGRESS EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY LITTLE BOY AND EVERY LITTLE GIRL.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Mme. Curie Honored

SCIENTISTS from all parts of the world joined recently in celebration at the Sorbonne, in Paris, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the discovery of radium by Pierre and Mme. Curie. President Millerand, flanked by representatives of the chamber of deputies, which approved this week a pension of 40,000 francs annually to Mme. Curie and her daughters; members of the senate and delegates from French faculties paid the nation's tribute to the researchists to whom credit is due for cutting down the death rate of diseases.

However, the simple tastes of the woman who has devoted herself to science need no reward such as a pension. "The great joy Pierre and myself experienced when we realized we had opened up a field of medical and surgical science was enough compensation, even if it were possible to forget the thousands who have been saved by the use of radium," Mme. Curie said after the demonstration was over.

Nevertheless, the pension will be useful, as plans are under way for the creation of a radium institute at Mme. Curie's old home in Poland, and the necessary tubes cannot be prepared unless the Paris institute's funds are increased.

At present Mme. Curie is doing a little research work, directing the experiments of her daughter, Irène. Lectures at the Sorbonne and the completion of a biography of Pierre Curie, in which she is aided by her other daughter, Eve, take up all her time, so that it is impossible for her to reply to all the requests from learned societies in the United States, England and Germany for special articles on the future of radium.

Girls Are Observing!

ACCORDING to a test of speed in observation, deduction and interpretation, Professor Langfield, in Harvard's psychological laboratory, found that Radcliffe girls outdistanced the Harvard boys on the average by a good percentage, although a boy and girl tied for first place.

The Washington *Herald* of December 28 comments as follows:

> "Nothing surprising in that. Women are compelled to do their work within, populating the earth, replacing those killed by famine, plague and war. In the past the women have had on an average fifteen to twenty children each. When the earth is fully populated and families limited to two the women will be far ahead of the men. They have more power."

Woman's Party Member for Senator

IZETTA JEWEL BROWN, a member of the National Woman's Party has tossed her hat into the political arena.

She has announced that she will seek the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate from West Virginia.

What Do Women Want?

"THAT'S the question now" is the caption which appeared at the top of the following editorial in the Washington *Times* a week ago. It read:

> "England was wondering in the recent election what eight million women would do in deciding between free trade and protection.
>
> "In old days British statesmen were compelled to think about one pleasant old lady, Queen Victoria, and what she thought. Now they have got to think about eight million different English women, old and young, fat and thin. It's rather trying on the politicians, but it will develop their intelligence.
>
> "Women's votes will be found to be on the right side as a rule. But even more important than their voting is the fact that giving them the vote compels men to ask themselves, 'What do the women want?' Women want what is good, for children, for the home, for decency."

Women's Status in Europe

IN the *Christian Science Monitor* of December 19th is an interesting account of a recent lecture by Miss Mary Sheepshanks, editor of *Jus Suffragi*. Excerpts from the *Monitor* article read as follows:

"Latin women, as yet, have no political status," Miss Sheepshanks said. "The Latin peoples are essentially individualistic, and do not like mass movements. The women do not form theyselves into societies, but prefer to get individuals, usually men, to persuade other more powerful individuals to carry out their wishes.

"A woman suffrage society has been formed in France, but chiefly because French women do not like to appear behind the women of other countries. In 1917 a woman suffrage bill passed the Chamber of Deputies, but was thrown out by the senate. In some respects French women have a better status than English women. Married women in France, however, are still not permitted to have their own banking account. Practically all the professions are open to French women, but in the case of industrial women, night work is forbidden.

"Belgium is ahead of France, inasmuch as a limited number of women have now been admitted to the franchise. Belgian women are also eligible for Parliament, and for provincial and municipal councils, and have the municipal franchise on the same terms as men. In 1921 Belgian women took an active part in the communal elections, and today there are 180 women councilors, six burgomasters or mayors, and one women in the senate. All the political parties in Belgium now admit women to their ranks. Belgian women are beginning to demand a reform in the present family and marital laws.

Women to Be Factor in Longevity

"MODERN woman's increased physical activity is as yet but a small factor in prolonging the span of life," said Dr. R. O. Moody, professor of anatomy at the University of California, commenting on a statement recently given out by the American College of Surgeons, in which modern women were given a large share of credit for lengthening human life.

In time, according to Dr. Moody, the woman of today will be a potent factor.

Efforts by the medical profession and child welfare organizations to decrease infant mortality is, in Dr. Moody's opinion, the most important influence at present toward longevity.

Women Jurors for Equal Rights

THE old question of whether women are too emotional for jury duty has been brought to the attention of the general public once more in the sensational trial of Mrs. Grace Cheney Baratti of San Francisco for the murder of her husband. Of eleven jurors passed in the case, seven were women who had no scruples about capital punishment for either men or women. Six of the twelve men examined for duty were turned back for having such scruples in relation to women.

Mrs. Baratti, who claims her husband committed suicide and who is fighting charges of murder of the well-known composer and musician on December 2, was employed as stenographer in the office of District Attorney Matthew Brady and transcribed notes in the court room where she is now appearing for judgment.

France Considers Equal Rights

ARTHUR BRISBANE in his editorial column in the Washington *Herald,* December 26, 1923, comments upon the recent discussion regarding votes for women by the French Parliament as follows:

> "The French Parliament discusses seriously votes for French women. In France the shopkeeper's wife is usually the business women, and always she is the adviser and practically head of the family. Americans that think they have a monopoly of 'real family life' enjoy deep ignorance. There are nowhere on earth closer family ties or more admirable family life than in France.
>
> "It seems strange to hear Frenchmen demand that if women vote the men shall have a right to cast votes for their minor children, 'including illegitimate children, in cases where the father has legally recognized such children.'
>
> "Votes for the illegitimate children should be cast by the mothers. They might change that infamous part of Napoleon's law forbidding women 'to seek to establish the paternity of an illegitimate child.' The votes of such women, and their offspring, might improve the morals of men by increasing their responsibility. To discourage vice, make it expensive, as the old poker player said when he raised the pot."

Edmonston.

Group from National Woman's Party on steps of Capitol. Foreground: Miss Maud Younger of California, legislative chairman of the Woman's Party, instructing the lobbyists. Upper: Mrs. Rowena Dashwood Graves, Colorado; Mrs. Anne Archbold, Maine; Mrs. Emma Brown, Maryland. Lower: Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews, Mississippi; Blanche Alsop, Virginia; Heath Jones, Delaware, and Wilma Henderson, Massachusetts.

THE CANVASS OF CONGRESS

By Hortense Russell.

OPPOSITE the Capitol of the United States there reposes in dignified simplicity the Capitol's nearest political neighbor—the headquarters of the National Woman's Party. From this stately old house, itself once the seat of the lawmakers, there emerges every morning a group of women. They are on a mission. There is gaiety about them. It is a neighborhood mission. They can be seen crossing the square and ascending the steps of the Capitol. This is neighborliness. To be a good neighbor is part of the conscientiousness of these women. What they are doing is a matter of course. They are bringing information to their neighbor's house, and in their neighbor's house there are many offices and many neighbors. These neighbors are the lawmakers of the nation. The women across the street are bringing information to the lawmakers of the nation. This information is most important. It deals with discriminations in the law against women. It points out how special legislation works disadvantageously for women.

The lawmakers receive this information eagerly, interestedly. They are astonished. Never had these facts regarding discrimination in the law because of sex been pointed out to them. They hear the women and ask for more detailed knowledge. They are given pamphlets, yellow, white, purple leaflets, the colors of the Woman's Party. The colors show up like banners—banners of hope and illumination. There is also hope and illumination on the faces of the women. They are looking forward—it is hoped not far forward—to the day when they shall have Equal Rights. So they go about their duties smilingly, with assurance. They are asked to come again—to bring more information. They are good neighbors. They come. They come every morning. They study the hours when the Senate and the House are not in session. They are a skilful group of women—a well-trained group. They are not only the nearest political neighbors of the National Capitol—they are the untiring lobbyists of the National Woman's Party under the direction of Maud Younger, congressional chairman of the organization.

"I find that the men know very little about the Equal Rights movement," said Mrs. Lucy Gwynn Branham of Maryland, a member of the committee, coming into Headquarters for more leaflets. "Every one I speak to wants more information."

A statement from Congressman William F. Green of Fall River, Mass., was secured during the week by Wilma Henderson of Wayland, Mass, the youngest of the committee, who is giving all her time and energy to the cause. Representative Green is eighty-two and Miss Henderson is nineteen. He graciously received his young constituent-to-be, and listened to her earnest plea for equality. Mr. Green, who has been in congress a quarter of a century, said: "As you probably know, I never helped you women win your suffrage. But now that woman suffrage is attained, I feel that Equal Rights should follow as a matter of course."

Woodbridge N. Ferris, senator from Michigan, said that he had given the matter much thought and had decided that he could not fail to support Equal Rights. "All my life," he said, "I have been a warm advocate of Equal Rights, and therefore I am glad to lend my support to the amendment. I always voted for suffrage because of the sheer justice involved. I shall do all in my power to secure the early passage of the Equal Rights amendment for the same reason."

Equal Rights

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THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and Women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

Presented by the National Woman's Party.

Introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Charles E. Curtis, December 10, 1923.

Introduced in the House by Representative D. R. Anthony, Jr., December 13, 1923.

1924

THE year 1924 will be one of the most interesting in the history of our nation, for in this coming year women will participate for the first time on completely equal terms with men in a Presidential campaign. Although women voted in 1920, they were enfranchised only a few weeks before election day so that they played little part in the election. This year, therefore, is the first in which they will have any real part in a national election.

Women have the opportunity to make this Presidential election year one that will long be remembered. We of the Woman's Party will strive through this year to organize the great power that has been placed in the hands of women so that it will be used to establish complete freedom for women in all fields, and to carry women into all legislative and administrative positions.

If the political power of women is used in this way to help forward the whole woman movement, it will mean that by the end of the coming year women will be in a position of complete equality with men, in so far as the law can establish this equality. It will mean furthermore that they will be in a position to direct our national life equally with men, and to be in a stronger position in regard to our relations with women throughout the world wherever the movement for equality needs our co-operation.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

THE year that is just over will long be remembered for two epoch-making events in regard to Equal Rights. The first was the introduction in Congress of the Equal Rights amendment to the national constitution. The second was the inaugurating of a world-wide movement for Equal Rights through the undertaking of an International Parliament of Women.

In addition to the launching of a national Equal Rights amendment and the beginning of an international movement for Equal Rights for all women the world over, the year has been significant because of actual legislative gains. These include the winning for California women of Equal Rights with men in willing away the community property; the winning for Colorado women of Equal Rights with men in recovering damages for injury to their children; the winning for Delaware women of Equal Rights with men in holding public office, in the guardianship of their children, in inheriting real estate from their children; the winning for New York women of Equal Rights with men in inheriting from their children, in inheriting from their other kindred, in the age at which they may make wills, in the guardianship of their children when separated from their husbands but not divorced; the winning for Ohio women of Equal Rights with men in the guardianship of their children, in the right to the services and earnings of their children, in the choice of a voting residence; the winning for Pennsylvania women of more nearly Equal Rights with men in the grounds for divorce, and of Equal Rights in the choice of a voting residence and in the acquiring of a settlement for poor law purposes.

The year has also been notable because of the foundation that has been laid by the National Woman's Party for the Equal Rights campaign in the future. The year has witnessed the establishing of a weekly Equal Rights paper which spreads information about the movement all over the country. The year has seen the creation of an extensive Equal Rights literature setting forth the existing disabilities of women and supplying workers with arguments for the Equal Rights principle and for the national Equal Rights amendment. The year has seen the giving of two great Equal Rights pageants, one in the East and one in the West, which centered nation-wide attention on the question of Equal Rights. The year has seen the completion of an investigation of all statutes and court decisions affecting the position of women in a large number of states. The year has seen the arousing of the whole country to the Equal Rights question by the publicity and organizing work that has been done. The year has seen the strengthening of the local branches of the National Woman's Party and the formation of new branches. The year has seen the organization of Occupational Councils under the auspices of the National Woman's Party, such as the Government Workers' Council, the Students' Council, the Teachers' Council, the Industrial Council, enabling women to work with other women of their own profession in removing the disabilities of women in their particular profession. The year has seen considerable progress in the renovating and furnishing of the National Headquarters. And finally the year has seen the raising of approximately $70,000 by the National Headquarters and many more thousands by the Local Headquarters for the carrying on by the National Woman's Party of the nation-wide Equal Rights campaign.

Altogether, the year 1923 has been a significant one in the movement for a better position for women.

LAVINIA DOCK APPEALS TO NURSES

LAVINIA DOCK, co-chairman with Miss Annie Goodrich of the Nurses' Council of the Woman's Party is endeavoring to enlist the interest of every nurse in the country in the Woman's Party campaign. Miss Dock has sent a letter to the nurses of the country.

Miss Dock's appeal is of particular interest because of all that she stands for personally. Miss Dock is the secretary of the International Council of Nurses. She was one of the early workers in the Nurses' Settlement in New York City and for years was a leader in the work of the Nurses' Settlement. She is the author of "Hygiene and Morality" and various works on nursing and social problems. She has been a lecturer at the New York School of Social Work and a prominent leader in the National Red Cross. The letter reads as follows:

"You will hear strong opposition to the Equal Rights amendment, although it seems almost grotesque to oppose anything so fundamental and so naturally right as legal equality for all American citizens.

"It is based upon the apprehension that existing 'Welfare' laws affecting women will be lost. The subject is so complex that each group must study it for themselves. Only an outline of the National Woman's Party's point of view can be given in this space."

Industry Should Be Humanized.

"The National Woman's Party holds that the regulation of industry is a matter for the workers to decide and that, as there are different ways of controlling the conditions of labor, it (the National Woman's Party) does not attempt to say what method is best; but it contends that, whatever course is pursued, whether organization or legislation, or both, or co-operation of any kind, there must be no discrimination against women. Conditions should be made better for all workers without regard to sex. Industry should be humanized. The health and welfare of potential or actual fathers should be regarded as important as that of mothers. It holds that welfare laws, as they are at present, work hardship on many women by making it more difficult for them to earn a living. The young of both sexes should be protected.

"For myself, I cannot believe that the advancing and strengthening of woman's legal, social and economic status, will make her weaker in the world of industry, or lessen her ability to care for herself and the young of the race. To sweep away existing restrictions which hold women back seems to me like putting in the floor of a building. The labor laws that we have now are like the furniture, and they are not good enough to hold back the attainment of a broad, secure basis for human progress. In the midst of a perplexing world I feel sure of one thing, and that is, that the complete emancipation of women from old badges of inferiority will work for greater good to humanity than anything we can gain without such emancipation."

Maternity A Service To The State.

"I believe that nurses as a whole will be in sympathy with the Equal Rights Movement. Those who are imbued with faith in present welfare laws may reflect that legislation planned for the conserving of the public health is bound to be more and more the aim of a community of free and equal citizens. This legislation must in the future emphasize even more strongly the protection of maternity, which even now is in some countries definitely recognized as a service to the State and the race and protected accordingly.

"Miss Goodrich and I are the co-chairmen of the Nurses' Council of the National Woman's Party and we invite nurses whose duties and inclinations enable them to help the movement to join it. Active Membership dues are $10 per year. Associate members pay $1 dues.

"Applications for membrship should be sent to

"Headquarters, National Woman's Party,

"Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C.

"I also urge nurses to subscribe to the weekly, 'EQUAL RIGHTS,' as it will give full and instructive details of the campaign, week by week, as well as explaining fully and consecutively the principles, viewpoint and aim of the work for Equality. Its cost is only $2 per year and one cannot intelligently follow the movement without reading it regularly. Checks should be made payable to 'EQUAL RIGHTS' at 19 West Chase Street, Baltimore, Md.

"(Signed) L. L. DOCK."

The Book of Wisconsin

Mrs. Mabel Raef Putnam, Chairman of the Wisconsin Branch of the Woman's Party, has written a narrative of the successful campaign for the Wisconsin Woman's Rights Law. It is appropriately called "The Winning of the First Bill of Rights for American Women" and "its aim is to aid in the liberation of American women from a status subordinate to American men under man-made constitutions, laws and customs." Mr. Frank Putnam, husband of the author, has published the narrative in book form, at his own expense and will distribute copies gratis to various public libraries throughout the country in order to give wider publicity to Wisconsin's pioneer step of granting complete equality to women with men before the law. Thus, both Mr. and Mrs. Putnam have made a real contribution to the cause of Equal Rights.

The book is admirably written and tells with much spirit what was done in the campaign for Equal Rights in Wisconsin, and how it was done. It tells of the enactment of the Equal Rights Law—that "great event of the year 1921 in the progress of women towards complete equality with men." It also tells of the effective operation of this law over a period of more than two years.

The campaign experiences of Mrs. Putnam, who was the most active champion of the Wisconsin law, and those of the workers associated with her are of great interest and may be read with benefit by all women advocating similar legislation in other States. The book is generously illustrated with reproductions of photographs. It has the spirit of the Woman's Party and is even bound with its beautiful colors which everywhere stand for the liberty of women.

Benita Shelton Matthews,

Legal Research Secretary, National Woman's Party.

The International Parliament

The outstanding feature, in my opinion, of the recent National Conference of the Woman's Party was the adoption of the resolution offered by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, President, which provides for the calling of an International Conference of Women to sit as a Parliament of Women to deliberate upon problems of common interest to women and to aid the movement to end the present world-wide subjection of women.

It is peculiarly fitting that this call to women of all nations to unite in order to secure the legal recognition that is their due, should come from women of the United States. Today, when the old world is torn with post-war despair and hatreds, and when to the United States of America comes the cry for help to re-establish order and faith and the best things of civilization once more, there can be no hope of a restored world while the half of the race that is most constructive in its traditions and constitution, is denied equality of power in the councils of reconstruction.

With broad vision, therefore, and knowledge that the time for international action has come, the National Woman's Party has taken the vital initial step toward world-wide emancipation of women.

Work for our national constitutional Equal Rights amendment will go forward simultaneously with the movement to unite the womanhood of all nations, and thus to crystallize the demand for Equal Rights for men and women throughout the world.

It is a great task, but the Woman's Party faces it without flinching, and with the courage born of the conviction that right makes might.

Dr. Caroline Spencer,

Member of the National Council of the Woman's Party from Colorado.

EQUAL RIGHTS BILLS THAT FAILED IN 1923

By Emma Wold

Legislative Secretary of National Woman's Party.

No more powerful argument for turning to the national Equal Rights amendment can be found than in a survey of the Equal Rights legislation that failed of passage during the past year.

This survey of the newly made laws giving equality and of those that failed shows by what small steps and how slowly progress is making in this respect. How laboriously and expensively these slow steps have been taken, those women who worked with the legislative sessions during the winter and spring can best testify.

It would take too long to consider every state, so we will take sixteen states as a cross section of the whole. In these states there were enacted about 7000 laws during 1923. Only 33 of these removed discriminations against mothers, wives and women in general.

California.

In California, while wives were given the right to dispose by will of their share of the community property on the same terms as their husbands, the bill equalizing the age of majority was killed by a pocket veto and that placing greater responsibility on the father for the support of his illegitimate children failed to pass.

Connecticut

In Connecticut only one Equal Rights law was enacted. This provided that the death of husband and wife shall be presumed to be simultaneous when there is no evidence to indicate priority of the death of either. Twenty-six Equal Rights bills, on the other hand, were defeated—covering jury service, divorce, domicile, equal pay for men and women teachers and public employes, rights of parents to services of their children, right to the use of one-third of property of surviving spouse, the right of husband and wife to sue, the right of a married woman to her services and to recover damages for their loss, contracts between husband and wife, equal responsibility of both parents for their legitimate child, removal of the common law presumption that a wife's crime committed in her husband's presence is committed under his coercion, equality of right to take up any occupation regardless of sex, and the extension of the present ten-hour day for women workers to persons.

Delaware

Delaware defeated a bill to equalize the right to inherit personal property, and one giving a married woman the right to determine her own domicile. It amended the state constitution so that women may now hold public office, removed all constitutional discriminations and ratified the federal suffrage amendment. It also provided for equality in the inheritance of real property and in the exemption of property of husband and wife from execution or attachment, and it gave the right of naming a guardian of a minor to the surviving parent whether father or mother.

Illinois

Illinois rejected twenty Equal Rights bills, including the general Equal Rights bill and bills equalizing the rights of the father and mother to name guardians of their children in their wills, equalizing the right of males and females to act as administrators of estates, fixing the proportion of men and women on party committees, making the father as responsible for the support of his illegitimate child as the mother, requiring equal pay for men and women teachers, providing that the conveyance of property by husband or wife shall be the same, making prostitution an offense of both the man and woman, and giving a married woman the right to recover all the damages for an injury to herself. In Illinois the use of the Soldiers' Home was extended to the wives of soldiers and sailors and the surviving spouse was given the right to take one-third of the realty.

Kansas

Kansas legislators killed a bill for equal representation of women with men on party committees, and passed no measures at all removing the disabilities of women.

Massachusetts

In Massachusetts a bill covering thirty-two discriminatory laws was defeated, thus leaving in the statutes words which give the father a superior right to the control, the labor and earnings of his children; restrict a married woman in conducting her business; leave the grounds for divorce unequal; disqualify women for jury service; exclude married women from attending night schools, and continue the existence of several statutes that apply specifically to married women but do not subject married men to the same provision. Massachusetts adopted three Equal Rights measures. These provide for equal pay for men and women teachers, the consent of both parents to the marriage of a minor, and a proposal for submitting to a popular vote a constitutional amendment to permit women to hold public office.

Michigan

In Michigan five Equal Rights bills were considered and defeated. One of these related to the rights of husbands and wives with regard to their children. Another would have removed the common law disabilities of women. A third would have given the wife an equal share in property owned by husband and wife. One would have put on the father of an illegitimate child the same duties as on the mother. One would have given women workers as well as men workers the right to work overtime in an eight-hour day.

Minnesota.

The Minnesota legislature defeated a general Equal Rights bill giving women Equal Rights with men in every respect.

New Hampshire

In New Hampshire there were defeated two bills equalizing the parental responsibilities for an illegitimate child, and bills removing the general exemption of women from jury duty, the forfeiture of the right of guardianship when a woman marries, and the dependence of a wife's domicile upon that of her husband. In this state the age for contracting a valid marriage was raised to sixteen for both male and female, and the right to make a will was extended to "every person," a phrase defined to include married women.

New York

The New York legislature rejected twenty-five Equal Rights measures, including several bills making women eligible to jury service, several bills giving the surviving wife the same rights in her husband's property as the surviving husband has in hers, bills granting letter of administration without preference as to sex, equalizing the guardianship rights of father and mother, and the responsibilities of parents of illegitimate children, abolishing the dependence of a wife upon the domicile of her husband, removing the distinction between men and women for public office, extending the powers of a married woman regarding her property and contracts, giving the wife the ownership of her services in the home, giving husband and wife the right to sue each other, giving right of action for invasions of marital rights, and making prostitution an offense of both the man and the woman. It gave the right to inherit realty equally to father and mother, removed the sex distinction in the descent of realty, set the age for making of wills concerning personal estate at 18 for both male and female, and abolished the prima facie right of the father to the custody of the children where the parents live apart.

Ohio

Ohio rejected fourteen Equality bills, including bills providing for equal representation of women on party committees, giving husband or wife equitable rights in property held in the name of one to which both have contributed, extending the contract rights of husband and wife, giving the wife the right to her labor in the home, giving her the right to recover damages for the invasion of her marital rights, repeal-

ing the law by which the husband alone is the head of the family, equalizing the duties of the parents of illegitimate children and requiring equal pay for men and women teachers and public employes. In Ohio laws were adopted equalizing the inheritance of real property, giving the father and mother equal and joint guardianship rights, requiring the consent of both parents to the marriage of a minor under sixteen, raising the age of majority of girls to twenty-one, giving a married woman the right to determine her own domicile for voting purposes, and making the father as well as the mother responsible for the support of an illegitimate child.

Oklahoma

In Oklahoma, out of nine Equal Rights bills introduced covering jury service, joint and equal guardianship, the headship of the family, the right to administer estates without preference as to sex, the domicile of a married woman, the sharing of responsibilities for illegitimate children, and the removal of a constitutional provision which now prevents women from holding the higher offices of the state, including the superintendency of public instruction, only the last passed and this must be ratified by a vote of the people.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania legislature passed four Equal Rights measures, but defeated a measure giving the mother the right to equal guardianship of her child and the rights growing therefrom, or to the appointment of a testamentary guardian when the father has not forfeited his right. There was also refused the removal of the sex preference in the appointment of administrators of estates, the extension of the right of a married woman to make contracts and to mortgage her property, the establishment of the right to her own services and the right to recover for their loss. Pennsylvania also failed to pass a measure giving women equal representation on party committees. Of the successful measures, one provides for equality in the grounds for divorce, one gives a married woman the right to determine her domicile for voting and holding office, one gives a married woman the chance to establish her own residence for poor relief, and one makes prostitution an offense of both the man and the woman.

Rhode Island

In Rhode Island twenty-six Equal Rights measures were received for consideration and all of them defeated. They included the admission of women to jury service, an amendment to the divorce law, the equalizing of responsibilities of parents of illegitimate children, the equalizing of the rights of father and mother in their children's services, the extension of the rights of married women in their property, the right of a married woman to determine her own domicile, the right to establish her own residence for poor relief, the right to her services in the home and to the recovery of all damages for injuries to herself, the right of action for offenses against her marital rights, the extension of the contract rights of husband and wife, equality of pay for men and women teachers and public employes, limitation of hours of work for both men and women, and the general Equal Rights bill.

Vermont

Vermont defeated a bill permitting women to sit on juries, and adopted one requiring sheriffs to appoint one or more women deputies.

West Virginia

In West Virginia bills to remove certain legal disabilities, to equalize dower and curtesy interest, and to place responsibility for the support of an illegitimate child upon the father as well as the mother were defeated.

Other States

Among the measures defeated in other states are bills for jury service for women in Arizona, Missouri, Montana and Tennessee. Tennessee also rejected bills making equal the rights of the surviving spouse in the property of the other, giving husband and wife the right to sue each other, giving them the right to contract with each other, giving the wife the right to her labor and the right to determine her domicile, and making prostitution an offense of both man and woman. Colorado defeated the general Equal Rights bill introduced in its legislature. Oregon defeated a bill providing for equal representation of men and women on party committees.

The foregoing survey covers only a few of the states holding legislative sessions in 1923, but it is a cross section of all the states, showing vividly how numerous are the Equal Rights measures which were defeated through the country during the year.

By the slow and cumbrous method of specific legislative action we have advanced this year most painfully and slowly, a step forward here and there, with not seldom a step backward. A federal amendment covering the disabilities in all the states is the surer way.

MARYLAND WOMEN RUSH EQUAL RIGHTS WORK IN CONGRESS

IN SPITE of the fact that Congress was about to recess for the Christmas holidays, the delegation from Maryland which called on the two Senators and several Congressmen of that state received the greatest encouragement in their Equal Rights work.

In the delegation were Mrs. Dora Ogle, the Maryland legislative chairman; Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, president of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party; Mrs. Lucy Branham, Mrs. Lucy C. Shaw, Mrs. George Rollman and Mrs. Robert Walker. Several members of the Maryland Branch, unable to go to Washington, made good their absence by sending telegrams and letters.

The first call was paid to Senator William Cabell Bruce, who had already helped the Maryland women in their fight for equal pay for equal work for teachers during the year preceding his election.

Senator Bruce reassured them of his absolute belief in Equal Rights as a measure of justice and his willingness to work for this new standard. He deplored the fact that an amendment to the Federal Constitution might be necessary to establish this principle, and hoped that some other way to affect a change that will be nation-wide might be found. However, his profound belief in the justice of Equal Rights will find him ready to support a Federal amendment. His cordial assurance that there was no disagreement between himself and the hopes of the delegation gave great strength to the earnest women. He asked for all the literature on the subject available.

Senator Weller, while not so closely in touch with the achievements of the National Woman's Party, was no less emphatic in his belief in Equal Rights, and his willingness to inform himself of the proper way to attain this principle He is eager to support all legislation which helps women. The prospect of a Federal amendment on the subject was newer to him than to Senator Bruce, and he also asked for all literature, especially the codified laws, which makes an amendment a necessity.

Millard E. Tydings approached the subject of Equal Rights with a far more open mind than he did the question of woman suffrage. He sees the desirability of Equal Rights, but desires to withhold a promise to work for an amendment until he, too, informs himself of the necessity for one. His whole attitude toward the subject was one of eager respect, and no doubt he will favor and support the measure when it is brought to a vote.

As Congress had recessed Congressmen Goldsborough, Linthicum and Hill had already left for their homes, Congressman Mudd is ill and Congressman Zihlman was in committee, the second section of the delegation will wait upon these gentlemen after the fourth of January.

One realizes the importance of personal calls on these lawmakers when one sees the result of them. Even the desire to debate a question brings out information otherwise forgotten, and often clears up a point in the Congressman's mind. It will be a desirable thing to continue these calls until the amendment is adopted.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Michigan Branch Holds Equal Rights Meeting in Detroit.

AN active campaign in Michigan for the Equal Rights amendment was begun by a dinner given by the Michigan branch of the National Woman's Party at the Twentieth Century Club in Detroit on December 7th. At this time Mrs. Bessie Garner was elected chairman of the Detroit branch. The following account of the dinner is given by the Detroit *News* of Saturday, December 8th:

"Protective legislation places married women on the same legal basis with infants and the mentally incompetent, Mrs. Bessie Garner declared in a plea for 'equal rights' at the National Woman's Party dinner at the Twentieth Century Club, Friday evening.

"Following addresses in its favor by Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Emma Fox, Mrs. William H. McGraw, Mrs. George L. Grimes and Mrs. Arthur B. Cramer, a resolution indorsing the amendment was introduced by Mrs. George T. Hendrie and formally adopted.

"'If women work for the adoption of the Lucretia Mott amendment as steadily and consistently as they did for Woman Suffrage, they will add another victory to their political record,' Mrs. McGraw told the members.

"'The time has come for men and women to work out social, commercial and industrial problems together, and on an equal basis,' Mrs. Cramer said.

"Mrs. Emma Fox reported as a delegate to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first woman's rights convention, held in Washington last fall.

"Mrs. Grimes, as legislative chairman for the Michigan branch, discussed work done by the women during the last session of the legislature."

A Senator Receives a New Year's Greeting.

THE holiday season was a unique one for many senators and congressmen who received in their New Year's mail many charming reminders of what they can do for the women of the nation this coming year. On the back of many of their letters and cards were affixed the Lucretia Mott stickers, calling their attention in pretty purple, white and gold letters, to the Equal Rights amendment. Occasionally, there is a more novel reminder. Among the daintiest as well as the most uncommon cards sent to Senator Charles E. Curtis was a pasteboard of fine quality and finish, upon which was painted in water colors a gentleman and lady dancing the minuet. In small black lettering above their heads is printed, "The Lucretia Mott Amendment to the United States Constitution"; and filling in the frame which encloses their quaint figures are the words, "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." Below them, in larger print, are the prophetic words, "This would mean a Happy New Year through all Eternity."

The artist, Celia Stein, is a New York member of the Woman's Party.

Meeting In Alabama.

MISS CARRIE WILSON OF WASHINGTON, Treasurer of the Government Workers Council, was the speaker recently at several meetings held in her home city of Mobile, Alabama, concerning the work of the Woman's Party for the Lucretia Mott Amendment.

On December 3rd a called meeting of the Business Woman's Club was held, with Miss Annette Kennedy, the president, as chairman. After Miss Wilson had discussed the amendment everyone at the meeting endorsed the amendment and signed a petition urging the Alabama Congressmen to work and vote for it. The petition was sent to Senator J. Thomas Heflin.

On December 5th the Century Book Club of Mobile met at the home of Mrs. J. Vergho on Michigan avenue. Miss Wilson told in detail of the conference of the National Woman's Party held in Washington in November, and presented the reasons why the Woman's Party is supporting the Equal Rights amendment. All present, except one, signed the petition urging support of the amendment, which was sent to Representative John McDuffie who represents the first congressional district of Alabama in Congress.

Senator Ball Pledges Support Of Amendment.

ON Friday, December 17th, a delegation of about 40 members of the Woman's Party met with Senator L. Heisler Ball of Delaware at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington. Mrs. Jane Hammitt, Delaware State Chairman, presided, and after briefly greeting Senator Ball introduced Florence Bayard Hilles, legislative chairman, who concisely and clearly presented the reasons why the Equal Rights amendment should be immediately added to the United States Constitution. Senator Ball then replied, stating that he was glad to give his support to the Lucretia Mott Amendment. He said that he was ready, not only to vote for it, but to work for it as he had for the National Suffrage Amendment. In the delegation to Senator Ball there were representatives of many organizations of women who are giving active support to the Equal Rights amendment.

On Friday, November 30th, a meeting of the Deleware Branch of the Woman's Party was held at the home of Mrs. Victor DuPont in Wilmington. Florence Bayard Hilles gave an interesting report of the National Conference held in Washington and Mrs. DuPont repeated the speech which she had made to President Coolidge on the occasion of the Woman's Party deputation to him.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS

From the New York Evening World, December 15, 1923.

"AT the first day's meeting of the Republican National Committee, it seemed like old suffrage days. There were women wearing the broad tri-colored band of the National Woman's Party buttonholing members of the committee to win their pledge for the 'Equal Rights' amendment, just as they used to plead for the Suffrage amendment."

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